

March 31, 1983

LB 624

on the committee amendments to LB 624. We need one more vote for adoption of the committee amendment to LB 624. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carried and the amendments are adopted and Senator Wesely, ten minutes to explain the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: I won't need that much time. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, LB 624 is a bill dealing with a problem that you have heard of I think over the past few years more and more concerning asbestos in our schools. The federal government has been very concerned about the issue for a number of years. Asbestos use in buildings was banned in '73 and there were some exemptions to that that were eliminated later in 1978 so that now asbestos is no longer used in building construction in this country. But for those buildings that were constructed between 1946 when the material was first started to be used in buildings in 1973 when it was eventually banned, those buildings still have this very dangerous, very carcinogenic material in them. What happens is over a period of time that material in those buildings deteriorate and they begin to be friable, is a term that you will hear associated with asbestos quite a bit. Friable means it is flaking. It is able to if you hit it or bump it fly off into the air and when you have that happen those asbestos fibers then are breathed into the lungs by different individuals. In schools it would be school children and teachers and when it gets into your lungs it can cause over a period of time cancer, and what they find is it takes twenty or thirty years for it to show its effects so it is a long term problem and it is something that has been identified very carefully over the years as being a very serious problem. It is a very dangerous, very carcinogenic substance and that is why they took the steps that they did in banning its use in building construction. They took further steps then to say that in those schools that have had this material identified, they should take tests to make sure they know how much of a problem it is and if it is over a certain level, they don't require action but they recommend that it be removed. So in our state all the schools across the State of Nebraska have until the end of June to identify whether or not they have got an asbestos problem. If at that time they do find an asbestos problem, they really are open to action. Whether they remove it or